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Biden, Joseph
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ABC Network

DATE September 4, 1979 7:16 AM CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An Interview with Senator Joseph Biden

HUGH DOWNS: 7:16 now. Last week, Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware led a group of six senators to Moscow to express strong reservations about some provisions of the SALT II treaty. That treaty limits Soviet and American nuclear weapons. They met with Prime Minister Kosygin and high-ranking Soviets during their six day visit. It was not a fact-finding trip. Senator Biden says that it was to deliver an important message. That was the mission.

Well, Senator Biden is in our Washington studio now with Ann Compton.

Welcome, Senator, and good morning, Ann.

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN: Good morning. Nice to be here.

DOWNS: Senator, what was the message that you and the five other senators delivered?

SENATOR BIDEN: Well, we went specifically to tell the Soviets that not only does the Senate have the right to change the treaty, the Senate most assuredly is going to take action to clarify the treaty. And we went to lay out for them what we thought to be the most important areas of clarification and essentially say "Soviets, this is what we're going to do, like it or not, and if you don't like it, that's too bad; but we're going to do it."

And that was the message. It related to telling the world and telling them that we're not going to change our pattern of Approved For Release 2005/01/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400350095-91 the treaty called non-circumvention. And some assumed that that